

**CLAIMS**

- [c1] 1. In a communication device, a method for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the method comprising:  
maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and  
maintaining information about a user in the net.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net status, the net status including a secure net or a clear net.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net state, the net state including an active state or a dormant state.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net address.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining information identifying an arbitration scheme.
- [c6] 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user status, the user status including talking or listening.
- [c7] 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user priority, the priority.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the user priority includes a user privilege level to modify the information about the net.
- [c9] 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user Internet protocol (IP) address.

[c10] 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining information identifying existing nets the user is authorized to participate in.

[c11] 11. In a communication device, a computer-readable medium embodying a method for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the method comprising:

maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and  
maintaining information about a user in the net.

[c12] 12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net status, the net status including a secure net or a clear net.

[c13] 13. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net state, the net state including an active state or a dormant state.

[c14] 14. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net address.

[c15] 15. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining information identifying an arbitration scheme.

[c16] 16. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user status, the user status including talking or listening.

[c17] 17. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user priority, the priority.

- [c18] 18. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the user priority includes a user privilege level to modify the information about the net.
- [c19] 19. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user Internet Protocol (IP) address.
- [c20] 20. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining information identifying existing nets the user is authorized to participate in.
- [c21] 21. A communication device for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the communication device comprising:
- means for maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and
  - means for maintaining information about a user in the net.
- [c22] 22. The communication device of claim 21, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a net status, the net status including a secure net or a clear net.
- [c23] 23. The communication device of claim 21, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a net state, the net state including an active state or a dormant state.
- [c24] 24. The communication device of claim 21, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a net address.
- [c25] 25. The communication device of claim 21, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining information identifying an arbitration scheme.

[c26] 26. The communication device of claim 21, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a user status, the user status including talking or listening.

[c27] 27. The communication device of claim 21, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a user priority, the priority.

[c28] 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the user priority includes a user privilege level to modify the information about the net.

[c29] 29. The communication device of claim 21, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a user Internet protocol (IP) address.

[c30] 30. The communication device of claim 21, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining information identifying existing nets the user is authorized to participate in.

[c31] 31. A communication device for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the communication device comprising:

a memory unit; and

a processor communicatively coupled to the memory unit, the processor being capable of:  
maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and  
maintaining information about a user in the net.

[c32] 32. The communication device of claim 31, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a net status, the net status including a secure net or a clear net.

[c33] 33. The communication device of claim 31, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a net state, the net state including an active state or a dormant state.

[c34] 34. The communication device of claim 31, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a net address.

[c35] 35. The communication device of claim 31, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining information identifying an arbitration scheme.

[c36] 36. The communication device of claim 31, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a user status, the user status including talking or listening.

[c37] 37. The communication device of claim 31, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a user priority, the priority.

[c38] 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the user priority includes a user privilege level to modify the information about the net.

[c39] 39. The communication device of claim 31, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a user Internet Protocol (IP) address.

[c40] 40. The communication device of claim 31, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining information identifying existing nets the user is authorized to participate in.

[c41] 41. In a communication device, a database for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the database comprising:

a first portion for maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and

a second portion for maintaining information about a user in the net.